

compete for government contracts. That is why I introduced the Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protégé Program Act of 2021, which authorizes a business mentor-protégé program within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This bill pursues two critical goals: strengthening and helping small businesses, the backbone of our economy, and bolstering DHS, which has the critical responsibility to keep Americans safe. The legislation will give a hand up to minority-, woman-, and veteran-owned small businesses, making them more competitive for DHS contracts, and therefore, more likely to be successful, offering jobs and returning dollars to their communities. This pandemic has only reinforced the significant role that small businesses play. A broader, more diverse pool of DHS contractors saves taxpayer dollars, creates a stronger economy and most critically, helps keep our country safe. The Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protégé Program Act of 2021 has been included in the House version of the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as an amendment and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that this vital piece of legislation remains in the final NDAA.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
MAYOR HARVEY C. SKOOG

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Prescott Valley Mayor Harvey C. Skoog. Harvey selflessly served his community as Prescott Valley Mayor for a total of 19 years, excluding the additional years he spent serving as a council member and vice mayor. Harvey maintained a consistent leading record in his local community through his involvement with the Arizona Society of Practicing Accountants, Arizona Association of Enrolled Agents, Good Samaritan Nursing Home, Chamber of Commerce, League of Cities and Towns, Northern Arizona Council of Governments, and Central Arizona Senior Association, to name a few. Harvey's accomplishments are widely recognized in the state as he was honored as a co-recipient of the 2015 Prescott Area Leadership Man of the Year award. He was also passionate about expanding home ownership, religious freedom, and educational opportunities for the youth.

However, Harvey's contributions reach further than his professional, service, and leadership roles. After marrying Edna in 1960, Harvey raised 9 successful children who have raised 59 grandchildren and 63 great grandchildren. Madam Speaker, I wish to offer my deepest condolences to Harvey's entire family. His contributions will never be forgotten by the state of Arizona or the people of Prescott Valley.

HONORING DR. EMILY VOLK,
PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE OF
AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

HON. TREY HOLLINGSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor and recognize Dr. Emily Volk, Chief Medical Officer at Baptist Health Floyd, for being sworn in as President of the College of American Pathologists this past Saturday.

Dr. Volk has dedicated over 25 years of her life to working in the health care system and serving patients. Her outstanding record of clinical practice and operational leadership led her to the position she now holds with the College of American Pathologists, and she will no doubt exude the utmost competence while holding the position.

Throughout her career, Dr. Volk has championed physician and patient advocacy. I can personally attest to Dr. Volk's passion for advocacy during our interactions both at Baptist Health Floyd and with the College of American Pathologists.

I have full confidence that Dr. Volk will carry this new title with pride and lead by exceptional example. I wish her the best of luck in this new role.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF VICKY
RUSSELL

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Vicky Russell who passed away September 19 at North Mississippi Medical Center. She was 61 years old.

Vicky was born on May 20, 1960 to Raymond and Donna Gaines Yeager. She has lived all her life in Saltillo. She attended Saltillo schools and managed the B-Quick. For 13 years she worked at Hunter Sadler Mfg. before pursuing a career as a law enforcement officer. She served under Lee County Sheriff Harold Ray Presley and the Sheriff Larry Presley. 15 years ago she joined the Itawamba County Sheriff's Department. She had risen to the rank of Major and served as a Jail Administrator.

Left to cherish her memory are her beloved daughter, Jessica; grandchildren, Carson, Maisy, Delaney and Dylan; mother, Donna; sister, Patty; and countless friends, colleagues, and loved ones.

I join the Saltillo community in mourning the loss of an outstanding woman and member of the law enforcement community.

HONORING 13 FALLEN SOLDIERS

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize 13 United

States service members who sacrificed their lives in defense of our country during the United States evacuation from Afghanistan. In the final days of the evacuation, the U.S. and our allies evacuated more than 120,000 people to safety—the largest airlift in our history. On Thursday, August 26, 2021, 13 heroes lost their lives in service of this mission outside the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring these brave individuals: Sergeant Johnny Rosario Pichardo, Sergeant Nicole L. Gee, Staff Sergeant Darin T. Hoover, Corporal Hunter Lopez, Corporal Daegan W. Page, Corporal Humberto A. Sanchez, Lance Corporal David L. Espinoza, Lance Corporal Jared M. Schmitz, Lance Corporal Rylee J. McCollum, Lance Corporal Dylan R. Merola, Lance Corporal Kareem M. Nikoui, Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak, and Staff Sergeant Ryan C. Knauss. We are grateful for their service.

HONORING ERIC JAY LARSON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, in celebration of the life of Eric Jay Larson, who passed away at the age of 56 on August 17, 2021. Eric was a stalwart environmental scientist and advocate who worked for years with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and other state agencies to conserve vital and sensitive natural habitats on the Northern California coast.

Eric was born in San Francisco on March 17, 1965. He graduated from Redwood High School and attended college in Minnesota and California. Eric worked for the California Coastal Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission managing and regulating sediment in the estuary. As Environmental Program Manager for the State of California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Eric protected and restored wetlands, riparian corridors, marine preserves, coastlines and opens spaces. He also worked to acquire wildlife green belts and managed fisheries. He was nationally recognized by Vice President Al Gore for the best managed fishery in the United States. This expertise allowed him to advise Southeast Asian governments on river and wetland restoration efforts.

Eric was a founding member of the Peace in Medicine cannabis dispensary—the first non-profit and permitted dispensary in Sebastopol. Along with his partner of 30 years, Mitcho Thompson, Eric owned a small certified medicinal herb farm in Sebastopol.

Eric was respected by many and known for his "hands on" approach to science and enjoyment for educating others. His dedication and passion has left the region, state and world with long lasting benefits and he will be sorely missed by his colleagues, friend and family. Madam Speaker, we respectfully ask that you join us in extending condolences to Eric's family and many friends and in expressing our deep appreciation for his decades of contributions to the environment.